

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /094 W
-----079334 020552Z /13

R 011100Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6111
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2096

E.O. 11652: GSO
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PORG, OAU, ET, SO, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTANI VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ADVISER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DE FACTO FONMIN) AGHA SHAHI FEB 28 HE REGALED ME WITH PAKISTANI CONCERNS ABOUT HORN ALONG LINES OF FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ EARLIER REACTIONS. SHAHI WAS EVEN MORE CRITICAL AND ALARMIST THAN SHAHNAWAZ HAD BEEN. HE ASSERTED THAT USG WAS FAILING TO PLAY ROLE MOST NATIONS EXPECTED AS BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNIST EXPANSIONISM AND ADVENTURISM, AND POSITED WORST CASE SCENARIO (WHICH HE HAD BEEN HEARING FROM SOMALI INFO MIN HERE). HE SAW GRAVE DANGER OF COLLAPSE OF SIAD BARRE GOVT, WITH OR WITHOUT ETHIOPIAN INVASION OF SOMALIA, AND TAKEOVER BY PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS. THIS, IN TURN, WOULD EVENTUALLY ENDANGER FREE PASSAGE FROM RED SEA BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT WOULD START SHIFT TOWARD SOVIETS ON PART OF SUDAN, NORTH YEMEN, AND EVENTUALLY SAUDIS.

2. ABOVE IS REPORTED MORE FOR LIGHT IT SHEDS ON
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PAKISTANI AND SOMALI VIEWS THAN FOR ITS ILLUMINATION OF FUTURE EVENTS IN THE AREA. IN VIGOROUS EXCHANGE I REHEARSED EVIDENCE OF STRONG USG CONCERN, ATTITUDES WE HAVE EXPRESSED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, AND POLICIES ADOPTED TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL SOLUTION. SHAHI CONCEDED THAT SOMALIS SHOULD NOT HAVE INVADED IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND THAT SOMALIS SO FAR SHOWED LITTLE SIGN OF

COOPERATING IN WITHDRAWING FROM OGADEN SO AS TO FACILITATE
A SETTLEMENT. SHAHI ADMITTED THAT IMMEDIATE DIRECT US
MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA, WHICH HE HAD URGED, WAS
IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS SOMALIS WERE STILL FORCIBLY
RETAINING CONQUERED TERRITORY.

3. BASIS OF PAK CONCERN IS OFTEN-EXPRESSED DESIRE TO
SEE USG PLAY VIGOROUS PEACEKEEPING ROLE EVERYWHERE (AND
PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH ASIA), BUT THERE MAY BE SHARPER
SIGNIFICANCE IN APPARENTLY GENUINE FEAR (ALSO EXPRESSED
BY SOME DIPLOMATS HERE) THAT MARKED SOVIET SUCCESSES
WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT EVEN ON SAUDI ARABIA. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA02096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-0152
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803120/aaaadyiq.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8bccd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3159868
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI VIEWS ON HORN OF AFRICA
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PORO, ET, SO, PK, OAU, (SHAHI, AGHA), (HUMMEL, ARTHUR W JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bccd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014